Datums.com
Derivatives Ai Translations of Uploaded Multimedia Sources

The following events trace the historical, economic, and military developments surrounding **Operation Absolute Resolve** and the subsequent restructuring of global power dynamics.

Historical and Economic Background

- **1970s:** The **petrodollar system** is established, requiring global oil trades to be denominated in U.S. dollars.
- **1976:** Venezuela executes its first **nationalization of the oil industry**, affecting foreign-owned assets.
- **1998:** Venezuelan oil production reaches a peak of **3.5 million barrels per day** (bpd).
- **1999: Hugo Chávez** takes office; relations with the U.S. begin to fray over human rights and energy policy.
- **2007:** Chávez nationalizes major oil fields, forcing companies like **ExxonMobil and ConocoPhillips** out of the country.
- **2013: Nicolás Maduro** succeeds Chávez as President.
- **2020:** The U.S. Department of Justice first **indicts Maduro** on cocaine-trafficking and narco-terrorism charges.
- **2023:** President Trump observes that Venezuela is "about to collapse" and suggests the U.S. could have **"taken all that oil"**.
- **2023–2025:** The U.S. systematically **drains the Strategic Petroleum Reserve** (SPR) to its lowest levels since the 1980s to manage domestic gas prices.

2025: The Year of Escalation

- **January:** President Trump signs **Executive Order 14157**, directing the State Department to label certain drug cartels as **Foreign Terrorist Organizations** (FTOs).
- **January:** The U.S. government recognizes opposition leader **Edmundo González** as the legitimate winner of the 2024 election.

- **February:** The gang **Tren de Aragua** is designated as an FTO.
- **July 4:** Trump signs the **"One Big Beautiful Bill" (OBBBA)** into law, significantly increasing the national deficit by an estimated **$4.1 trillion** over ten years.
- **July:** The U.S. designates the **Cartel of the Suns** as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist; Trump secretly authorizes military action against designated cartels.
- **August:** The U.S. begins a major **naval buildup in the Caribbean** (Operation Southern Spear), deploying the **USS *Iwo Jima*** and 4,500 sailors and marines.
- **September 2:** The U.S. conducts its **first kinetic strike** on a vessel allegedly operated by Tren de Aragua, killing 11.
- **September:** The **U.S. Dollar Index (DXY)** falls nearly 10%, marking its weakest year in a decade.
- **October 1:** Trump formally notifies Congress that the U.S. is in a **"non-international armed conflict"** with drug cartels.
- **October 15:** Trump authorizes **CIA lethal ground operations** inside Venezuela; U.S. B-52 bombers conduct "attack demonstrations" north of Caracas.
- **October 24:** The supercarrier **USS *Gerald R. Ford*** is ordered to Latin America.
- **October 26: Russia** delivers Pantsir-S1 and Buk-M2E air defense systems to Venezuela.
- **November: U.S. margin debt** reaches a record **$1.21 trillion**, growing faster than market value.
- **November 13:** Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth formally unveils **Operation Southern Spear**.
- **November 24:** The **Cartel of the Suns** is officially designated as an FTO.
- **December 10:** U.S. special forces from the *Gerald R. Ford* **seize the oil tanker *Skipper*** off the Venezuelan coast.
- **December 11:** The U.S. imposes a **total blockade** on sanctioned oil tankers; additional sanctions are placed on Maduro's family.

- **Late December:** Rumors circulate that Venezuela is preparing to **price its oil in BRICS currencies** (the "Red Line"); rumors also emerge of a **major U.S. bank defaulting** on a silver margin call.
- **December 29:** The CIA carries out a **drone strike on a port facility** on the Venezuelan coast.

2026: Intervention and Aftermath

- **January 2:** President Trump announces that military strikes inside Venezuela will begin **"soon"**.
- **January 2, 23:46 VET:** Trump gives the **final order** to proceed with the capture of Maduro.
- **January 3, 02:00 VET: Operation Absolute Resolve begins**; over 150 aircraft bomb military infrastructure across northern Venezuela to disable air defenses.
- **January 3, 02:01 – 04:29 VET:** A special operations team (Delta Force and FBI HRT) lands at Maduro's compound, **captures Maduro and Cilia Flores**, and extracts them to the USS *Iwo Jima*.
- **January 3, 05:21 VET:** Trump announces the capture on **Truth Social**.
- **January 3:** At least **80 people are reported killed** in the strikes, including 32 Cuban military personnel.
- **January 3, 18:00 VET:** The aircraft carrying Maduro and Flores lands in **New York** for their arraignment.
- **January 4:** Trump holds a press conference at Mar-a-Lago, stating the U.S. will **"run" Venezuela** and utilize its oil reserves to reimburse U.S. companies.
- **January 4:** Secretary of State Marco Rubio announces a formal **"oil quarantine"** to interdict tankers destined for U.S. adversaries.
- **January 5: U.S. energy stocks surge** at market open; oil service providers like **Schlumberger and Halliburton** see gains of 11%.
- **January 5: Delcy Rodríguez** is sworn in as **Acting President** of Venezuela.

- **January 5:** Maduro and Flores **plead not guilty** to narco-terrorism and weapons charges in a Manhattan federal court.
- **January 5:** The **UN Security Council** convenes an emergency meeting to discuss the legality of the U.S. intervention.
- **January 5:** Trump signals potential military operations in **Colombia** to halt cocaine trafficking.